

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00840 211648Z

62

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-19

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-03 NSC-07 SS-20 DRC-01 IO-14 /135 W

----- 109977

R 211500Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4586

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0840

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR NATO

SUBJECT: FONMIN'S SUPPORT FOR NATO DECLARATION AT OTTAWA

1. REMARKS WHICH FONMIN AGUSTSSON MADE AT NATOMIN HAVE BEEN PICKED UP BY LOCAL PRESS TO EXPLOIT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN COALITION PARTNERS DURING ELECTION CAMPAIGN. PRESS ASKED FOR REACTION OF MAGNUS KJARTANSSON, MIN OF INDUSTRIES, AND HE REPLIED THAT, "THIS MATTER HAS NEVER BEEN DISCUSSED WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT OR WITH INDIVIDUAL MINISTERS. I CANNOT SEE THAT THE MINISTER HAD ANY RIGHT TO MAKE A DECLARATION OF THIS KIND."

2. WHEN AGUSTSSON WAS ASKED ABOUT KJARTANSSON STATEMENT, HE SAID, "I THINK MY REMARKS GO WELL IN HAND WITH MY POLICIES. I HAVE TRIED TO FIND NEW WAYS TO ENSURE THE SECURITY OF ICELAND. THE DECLARATION STATES THAT AN ATTACK ON ONE MEMBER STATE IS AN ATTACK ON ALL OF THEM AS IS STATED IN THE NATO AGREEMENT. HOWEVER,
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PAGE 02 REYKJA 00840 211648Z

IT IS CORRECT THAT THE CONTENTS OF THE DECLARATION HAVE NOT BEEN

DISCUSSED BY THE GOVERNMENT."

3. OPPOSITION NEWSPAPER MORGUNBLADID ENTERED DISPUTE BY SAYING, "THIS SHOULD NOT COME AS A SURPRISE TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING THE DISAGREEMENTS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT OVER FOREIGN AND DEFENSE POLICIES. THERE IS EVERY REASON TO LAMENT THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S STATEMENT THAT THERE WILL BE NO ICELANDIC MINISTER IN BRUSSELS TO SIGN THE DECLARATION. THIS IS SUCH AN IMPORTANT EVENT AND IT IS SO IMPORTANT FOR ICELAND TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH ITS ALLIES THAT WE SHOULD FEEL OBLIGED TO MAKE SURE ICELAND IS REPRESENTED AT THE SIGNATURE. LET US HOPE THE FOREIGN MINISTER WILL CHANGE HIS DECISION EVEN IF THERE IS AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN GOING ON IN ICELAND."

IRVING

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